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Remarks

Entry of the above-noted amendments, reconsideration of the application, and allowance of all claims pending are respectfully requested. By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 5, 8 and 18 are amended, claims 2 and 4 are canceled, and claims 25-26 are added. These amendments to the claims constitute a bona fide attempt by applicants to advance prosecution of the application and obtain allowance of certain claims, and are in no way meant to acquiesce to the substance of the rejections. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification (e.g., page 3, line 15, to page 4, line 23; page 5, lines 9-15; and page 8, line 25, to page 9, line 28), drawings (e.g., FIGS. 1-3), and claims (e.g., previous claims 2 and 4) and thus, no new matter has been added. Claims 1, 3, and 5-26 are pending.

Claim Objections:

Claim 8 was objected to because of the following alleged informalities: "Claim 8 contains a minor spelling error." Claim 8 has been amended to recite "mode" rather than "mod".

Withdrawal of the objection to claim 8 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Heidari, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,512,739; "Heidari"). This rejection is respectfully, but most strenuously, traversed.

It is well-settled that there is no anticipation unless (1) all the same elements are (2) found in exactly the same situation and (3) are united in the same way to (4) perform the identical function. Since the applied reference is missing at least one element of each of

applicants' independent claims, applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not anticipated by the applied reference, as further discussed below.

Applicants respectfully submit that the applied reference, with or without modification or combination, assuming, *arguendo*, that the modification or combination of the applied reference is proper, does not teach or suggest one or more elements of the claimed invention, as further discussed below.

For explanatory purposes, applicants discuss herein one or more differences between the applied reference and the claimed invention with reference to one or more parts of the applied reference. This discussion, however, is in no way meant to acquiesce in any characterization that one or more parts of the applied reference correspond to the claimed invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that the applied reference does not teach or suggest one or more elements of the claimed invention. A careful reading of the applied reference fails to teach or suggest, for example the line card for the telecommunications system comprising the multiple mode circuit capable of supporting symmetric and asymmetric telecommunication services, wherein the multiple mode circuit comprises the POTS interface for supporting POTS service and the xDSL interface for supporting symmetric and asymmetric xDSL services.

Heidari (column 4, lines 12-25, and FIG. 2) discloses a central office with splitters to dedicated line cards for voice band communications and selected line cards for xDSL communications:

FIG. 2 depicts a more detailed view of a representative one of the central offices shown in FIG. 1 including both digital subscriber line access modules (DSLAMs) and PSTN voice band modules. The CO 100 includes subscriber line connections to subscribers 110-114. Subscriber line 262 couples subscriber 110 with the CO. Each of these connections terminates in the frame room 200 of the CO. From this room connections are made for each subscriber line via splitters and hybrids to both a DSLAM 202 and to the voice band racks 204. The splitter shunts voice band communication to dedicated line cards, e.g. line card 242 or to a voice band modem pool (not shown). The splitter shunts higher frequency xDSL communications on the subscriber line to a selected line card 210 within DSLAM 202.

Heidari discloses separate line cards for voice band communications (dedicated line card 242) and xDSL communications (selected line cards 210). The line card 242 of the voice band rack 204 receives voice band communications from the subscriber line 262. The line card 210 of the DSLAM 202 receives the xDSL communications from the subscriber line 262. Simply missing from Heidari is any mention of the line card for the telecommunications system comprising the multiple mode circuit capable of supporting symmetric and asymmetric telecommunication services, wherein the multiple mode circuit comprises the POTS interface for supporting POTS service and the xDSL interface for supporting symmetric and asymmetric xDSL services.

So, Heidari fails to satisfy at least one of applicants' claim limitations.

Furthermore, the Office Action does not allege that the art of record provides any teaching, suggestion, or incentive for modifying Heidari to provide the claimed configuration. Applicants respectfully submit that these documents fail to provide the express teaching, suggestion, or incentive, and the claimed invention is thus patentable over the art of record.

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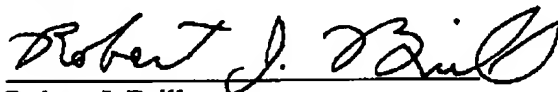
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For all the above reasons, the independent claim presented herewith are believed neither anticipated nor obvious over the art of the record. The dependent claims are believed allowable for the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for their own additional characterizations

Withdrawal of the §102 rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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